

SOUTH EASTERN JUNIOR CRICKET ASSOCIATION ("SEJCA")

2020 / 2021 REPRESENTATIVE PROGRAM

SELECTION PROCESSES & CRITERIA



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1. Objectives of Representative Cricket in the SEJCA District

The primary objectives of **SEJCA's** Junior Representative Pathway Program are to:

- a. Provide opportunities for club cricketers in the **SEJCA** district (girls and boys) under the age of 16 to play Junior Representative cricket;
- b. Develop cricket skills in a high-performance environment;
- c. Play competitive cricket against other talented cricketers in accordance with The Spirit of Cricket promoted by Cricket Australia; and
- d. Foster new friendships and teach valuable life lessons.

SEJCA enters a number of teams each year in the **New South Wales Metropolitan Youth Championship ("MYC")** operated by Cricket New South Wales ("**CNSW**"). It may also seek to enter teams into other representative competitions and assist teams enter regional carnivals, such as the Kookaburra Cup, Orange and Grafton Country Cups ("**Country Carnivals**").

SEJCA seeks to provide junior boys and girls with the opportunity to play cricket at a higher competitive level than club and school cricket. Junior representative cricket is ultimately a pathway to Premier Cricket and other forms of competitive senior cricket. However, we do recognise that not all junior representative cricketers will have a desire to play competitive cricket at a senior level. We therefore seek to provide an independent and transparent system for talented and committed junior cricketers to trial for selection, enhance their skills and compete against other talented cricketers. The players can then choose where to take those enhanced skills.

Selection in any **SEJCA** representative team will be based on individual merit and objective selection criteria. Players will be selected according to roles: batsmen, bowlers, wicket keepers and all-rounders. Fielding, fitness, game awareness, cultural fit and team balance will be important selection criteria for all **SEJCA** teams. Team balance is also important when selecting representative teams, so the best 12 players in each age group may not necessarily always be selected.

Once teams are selected, they will be handed to coaches to compete in the annual **MYC** and other representative competitions.

MYC teams will engage in a pre-season training period, a number of trials and then be required to train at least on a weekly basis during the **MYC** season. **SEJCA** wants its teams to train with an emphasis on centre wicket / game scenarios, fielding and building camaraderie.

Coaches selected for **MYC** teams ("**Team Coaches**") will be solely responsible for determining player's roles within teams during competitions. It should be noted that players will not necessarily get equal opportunities to participate in representative cricket. We believe club and school cricket competitions provide these opportunities.

When playing in representative competitions, **SEJCA** wishes for our district to focus on:

- Competing hard to win within the Spirit of Cricket;
- Respecting team mates, opposition players, coaches, umpires, parents and other officials; **and**
- Being gracious and friendly hosts of visiting teams.

Parents and players will cross paths with opponents in future years of the **MYC**, other representative teams and in school cricket. It is important to **SEJCA** that we have a good reputation within the broader cricket community.

2. Junior Representative Teams

- a. **SEJCA** may enter boys' and girls' teams in Divisions 1 and 2 of the **MYC**, and such other competitions as it deems appropriate from time to time. **Division 1** competitions include:
- i. Under 12 Boys (Arch Cawsey Shield)
 - ii. Under 13 Boys (WS Gee Shield)
 - iii. Under 14 Boys (Harold Moore Shield)
 - iv. Under 15 Boys (EG Weblin Shield)
 - v. Under 13 Girls (Mollie Dive Shield)
 - vi. Under 15 Girls (Margaret Peden Shield)

3. SEJCA Representative Academy & Team Selections

- a. Selection trials for the above teams shall take place at a time to be decided by **SEJCA**. The trial process will be as follows:
- i. **Under 12 Boys (Arch Cawsey Shield) and Division 2** (if **SEJCA** desires to enter a team):
 - A trial will be conducted over two (2) sessions at a venue and times to be determined ("**Open Trial**");
 - All registered **SEJCA** players in the U12 age group will be notified of the **Open Trial**, via MyCricket, or email communication. **SEJCA** clubs will be notified and relevant information posted on various social media channels;
 - A fee will be charged for participation in the **Open Trials**, as determined by **SEJCA** from time to time ("**Open Trial Fee**"). The **Open Trial Fee** is to cover venue hire and provision of coaches and selectors and must be paid in order for players to be eligible to participate in the **Open Trial**;
 - At the conclusion of the **Open Trial**, selectors will choose a 15-person Team ("**Training Team**") and be allocated a coach ("**Team Coach**");
 - The **Training Team** will train for a period of approximately 4-6 weeks prior to the commencement of the **MYC**. Prior to the first trial match, the **Team Coach** will nominate a team of 12 players ("**MYC Team**") to be approved by **SEJCA**. Players not selected in the **MYC Team** shall be **Shadow Players**, and are encouraged to continue to train with the **MYC Team**, as they may be required for the **MYC** in the event of an injury or player withdrawal;
 - If **SEJCA** wishes to enter an U12 team in Division 2 of the **MYC**, a team of 12 players ("**MYC Div 2 Team**"), plus three (3) **Shadow Players**, will also be selected and announced. In the event of injuries or withdrawals from the **MYC Team**, players may be called up from the **MYC Div 2 Team**, following nomination by the **MYC Team Coach** and approval by **SEJCA**. In such circumstances, the **Academy Panel** (see below) may nominate replacement player(s) for the **MYC Div 2 Team**.
 - ii. **Under 13 Boys (WS Gee Shield), Under 14 Boys (Harold Moore Shield) and Under 15 Boys (EG Weblin Shield)**:
 - All players selected to play for **SEJCA** in the previous year's **MYC** will be invited to join a training squad ("**SEJCA Rep Academy**") for their respective age groups;
 - In addition, each **SEJCA** club participating in the Sixers Cricket League for these age groups will be invited to nominate a number of additional players from each representative age group to join the **SEJCA Rep Academy**. Such nominations are to be submitted to **SEJCA** for review and approval;

- **SEJCA** may also invite other players at its discretion to join the **SEJCA Rep Academy**, based on MyCricket statistics and knowledge of any trialists who may have moved domicile to the **SEJCA** district, but did play cricket with a **SEJCA** club in the previous season (“**New to District Players**”);
 - Following nominations, up to 18 additional players for each age group may be selected to make up the **SEJCA Rep Academy**. The **SEJCA Rep Academy** will then train together over a number of sessions (“**the Academy Sessions**”), at times and venues to be determined by **SEJCA**;
 - Initial squads may include up to 30 players in each age group. However, **SEJCA** reserves the right to reduce number of players in each group during the **Academy Sessions**;
 - **SEJCA** will select a panel of coaches to run the **Academy Sessions**. The panel may include coaches from the previous year’s **MYC** (in various age groups) and other candidates for the current year’s coaching positions. The **Academy Panel** will also be assessed by **SEJCA** during the **Academy Sessions**;
 - The **Academy Sessions** will encompass batting and bowling in nets, centre wicket game scenarios and a range of fielding and fitness exercises;
 - Following completion of **The Academy Sessions**, teams of 12 players (“**MYC Team**”), plus three (3) additional **Shadow Players** will be announced for each age group. The **Shadow Players** will be encouraged to train with the **MYC Team** in the pre-season period and for the duration of the **MYC**;
 - **Shadow Players** may be called into the **MYC Team** in the event of injury or player withdrawals (or for any other event approved by **SEJCA**). In these cases, the **Team Coach** must nominate a **Shadow Player** in writing to the **SEJCA Representative Coordinator** via email. **SEJCA** must then approve or deny the nomination in writing;
 - **Shadow Player** attendance at **MYC** training sessions will not be compulsory. However, it should be noted that if a player withdraws from the **MYC Team**, and a replacement player is required, **SEJCA** will place emphasis on training attendance as an important consideration for calling up a **Shadow Player** to the **MYC Team**;
 - **SEJCA** reserves the right to call up players from outside the **Shadow Player** group, should a specialist position (i.e. wicketkeeper) need to be filled and a player with that skillset does not exist within the **Shadow Player** group.
- iii. **Under 13 Girls (Mollie Dive Shield), Under 15 Girls (Margaret Peden Shield)**
- If **SEJCA** wishes to enter teams in either of these competitions, the selection process will be determined by **SEJCA** at its discretion.

4. Independent Selection Process

- a. The **Academy Panel**, or other coaching and selection panels determined by **SEJCA**, will manage the **Open Trial** for Under 12 Boys, the **SEJCA Rep Academy** for U13s, U14s and U15s and all girls **Academy** and **Open Trial** activities.
- b. The **Academy Panel** will select the **MYC Teams** and **Shadow Players** for each age group for ultimate approval by **SEJCA**.

- c. Players participating in **Open Trials** for **U12 Cawsey Shield MYC Team, U12s Div 2 MYC Team**, and those participating in the **Academy Sessions**, are not to wear any **SEJCA** Representative clothing during **Open Trials** and **Academy Sessions**.
- d. The **Academy Panel** will be provided with independent selection parameters to assist with selection. It will be run in a similar manner to **CNSW's** established systems for selection of high-performance Academies and **CNSW** teams. In the selection process, emphasis will be given to:
 - i. Previous year's **MYCs** performances, particularly the most recent season;
 - ii. Performance, attendance, punctuality, fitness, and attitude in the **Academy Sessions** and **Open Trials**.
 - iii. Performance in major representative carnivals and Premier Cricket competitions (NSW PSSA State Championships, CHS, CNSW State Challenges, AW Green Shield, Premier Cricket grade games etc);
 - iv. Behaviour towards team mates, **SEJCA** officials, umpires or opposition players in the **Academy Sessions, Open Trials** and prior **MYC** seasons; and
 - v. Statistics in club cricket. We recognise that the management of game time, and player prominence, varies significantly between teams and age groups, and this can have an impact on statistics. For example, some U14 sides will bat the best batsman in the top order each week and allow them maximum number of balls. Whilst others will rotate batting orders and retire batsmen after 20-30 balls. We also recognise that some players are playing in older age groups for club cricket. It is inherently difficult to compare the statistics of these players against players participating in their correct age group.
- e. Prior to the commencement of the **SEJCA Rep Academy** and U12 **Open Trial** process, **SEJCA** will provide the **Academy Panel** with independent assessment templates, plus statistical and representative history of each player participating.
- f. Potential coaches will also be assessed during the **Academy Sessions** and **Open Trials**. Coaches will be appointed to each team ("**Team Coaches**") at the conclusion of the **Academy Sessions** and **Open Trials**.
- g. Whilst, **SEJCA** has a strong preference for the appointment of independent coaches, selectors and the **Academy Panel** members, in some cases having related parties involved is unavoidable, or may even be in the best interests of the **SEJCA** (knowledge of the players, skill set, experience in representative conditions etc) and relevant age groups. There will not be a total prohibition on non-independent selectors and coaches. However, the rigorous assessment process, and number of parties involved in final assessments, will mitigate any potential conflicts of interest.
- h. **SEJCA** reserves the right to exclude any **SEJCA** committee member, **South Eastern Junior Cricket Association Representative Committee ("SERC")** member, **Academy Panel** member or **MYC Team Coach** from any selection decision in respect to any **Related Party Relationship**.
- i. **MYC Teams** and **Shadow Players** selected by the **Academy Panel**, and their recommendations for **Captain and Vice-Captain** of each team must be submitted to **SEJCA** for final review and approval.
- j. The appointed **Team Coaches** will be required to also provide their recommendations for **Captain and Vice-Captain** of each team prior to the first trial games. The **Team Coaches** can have regard for the recommendations of **the Academy Panel**, but are not compelled to agree on nominations. **Team Coach** nominations for **Captain and Vice-Captain** must be submitted to **SEJCA** for final approval prior to the first scheduled trial game.
- k. In considering candidates for **Captain and Vice-Captain**, the **Academy Panel** and **Team Coaches** will have regard for the following attributes:
 - i. Performance, attendance, punctuality, fitness and attitude in the **Academy Sessions** and **Open Trials**.

- ii. Respect from peers within the team;
 - iii. Except in the case of U12 teams, a demonstrated understanding of representative cricket and the tactics for the various game formats;
 - iv. Except in the case of U12 teams, experience as a player and leader within **SEJCA** or other representative teams; and
 - v. Respect for team mates, coaches, opponents, umpires and general good sportsmanship in previous **MYC** seasons, **Open Trials**, **Academy Sessions** and team practice sessions.
- I. **SERC** will review team submissions from the **Academy Panel** and submit **MYC Team** and **Shadow Player** recommendations to the full **SEJCA Committee** for final approval.
 - m. **MYC Teams**, **Shadow Players** and **Team Coaches** will be announced prior to the first trial games via email and such other communication methods as **SERC** and **SEJCA** deem appropriate.
 - n. **MYC Team** and **Shadow Player** selections are to remain confidential, until formally announced by **SEJCA**.
 - o. At the time of publication of **MYC Teams** and **Shadow Players**, **SEJCA** will call for nominations for managers of each **MYC** team ("**Team Managers**"). **Team Managers** will be appointed, one week prior to the commencement of pre-season training.
 - p. Prior to the commencement of the **MYC**, teams will be required to train during allocated weeks and play a number of trial matches. Training times will be determined by **Team Coaches** in consultation with **MYC Team** parent groups. **SEJCA** will arrange all trial games.
 - q. Each **MYC Team** will be allocated a home ground by **SEJCA** for the pre-season period and the duration of the **MYC**.
 - r. At no time shall **the Academy Panel**, **SERC** members or **SEJCA Committee** members discuss selection rationale, player comparisons, or any other selection issues prior to or after the **Academy Sessions** and **Open Trials**. All **Academy Panel** discussions and deliberations are to be kept strictly confidential.

5. Player Eligibility

- a. To be eligible to trial and play representative cricket for **SEJCA** in any season, all intending players must meet the following criteria:
- i. Meet **CNSW's** qualification criteria for the **MYC**, as published each season.
 - ii. If not a **New to District Player**, be a registered and paid up player of a **SEJCA** affiliated club in the current or previous seasons; or
 - iii. If a **New to District Player**:
 - Parent / Guardian must sign an **Intention to Play for SEJCA Club Acknowledgement**; and
 - If selected in an **MYC Team**, or as a **Shadow Player**, register to play club cricket for a **SEJCA** affiliated club before the commencement of the **MYC**.

A player will only be considered a **New District Player** if they were:

 - Domiciled overseas during the previous **MYC** season and not registered to play with a **SEJCA** affiliated or Premier Cricket club; **or**
 - Were domiciled outside the **SEJCA** region in the previous **MYC** season and have moved to live in a postcode within 10KMs of any **SEJCA** club; **and**
 - Did not play cricket in the **SEJCA** Sixers League or other **CNSW** sanctioned **SEJCA** competition in the previous season.
 - iv. Must have played at least three (3) **SEJCA** affiliated club or Premier Cricket competition matches in the previous season ("**Prior Years' Service Criteria**"). Premier Cricket competition games must have been played for Randwick Petersham, Easts or University of New South Wales. The player must have actively participated in these matches as evidenced by MyCricket records. Appearance on a player's name in match records alone will not satisfy this criterion.
 - v. Be available to play for all **MYC** conference games and finals. If a player is unavailable to play any game due to sickness, injury or other circumstances deemed acceptable by **SERC and SEJCA**, then such reasons must be provided to the **SEJCA Representative Coordinator** in writing via email. If, in the opinion of **SERC and SEJCA**, the reasons provided for absence from a game are unacceptable, then the player will be suspended from playing any further **MYC** matches for the remainder of the season.
 - vi. Acknowledge commitment to the aims of **SEJCA's Pathway Program** by:
 - Attending all trials and scheduled **Academy Sessions**;
 - Being available for selection as required;
 - Attending baggy hat ceremony / selection functions, information sessions and any other formal team gatherings;
 - Attending pre-season training sessions as scheduled by **SEJCA** and **Team Coaches**;
 - Attending pre-season trials as scheduled by **SEJCA**;
 - Attending in season training sessions, as determined by the **Team Coach**; and
 - Attending all scheduled games for the **MYC** and other scheduled representative fixtures.
 - vii. Must not be disqualified or suspended from eligibility.
 - viii. Absence from participating in or attending any selection trial or scheduled **Academy Sessions** and scheduled team training sessions may impact on selection decisions.

SEJCA has endeavoured to schedule all events after taking into account known school holidays, compulsory school events and winter sporting finals. Even where an exemption from attendance has been granted, the fact that the **Academy Panel** or a **Team Coach** may be unable to assess ability at a scheduled event will be taken into account. The extent of that impact will be subject to the weight of that criteria against other criteria (prior **MYC** and representative performances, statistics, team balance etc).

- b. If a player has played a minimum of three (3) matches in a club affiliated with more than one Association, players may only trial for one of those Associations in accordance with **CNSW's** qualification criteria set out on **CNSW's MYC** website from time to time.
- c. Having regard that one of **SEJCA's** primary objectives of its **Pathway Program** is ***"to provide opportunities for club cricketers (girls and boys) in the SEJCA district under the age of 16 to play Junior Representative cricket"***, preference will always be given to selecting players who have an historical and on-going commitment to the **SEJCA** district, verses players who may be seeking to trial for **SEJCA** to simply seek another playing opportunity, notwithstanding that they may have satisfied **Prior Years' Service Criteria**.
- d. Concessions from eligibility Under Clause 5 (a) (iv) may be considered by **SEJCA** in its absolute discretion a player has been unable to meet the **Prior Years' Service Criteria** in the following exceptional circumstances:
 - i. Higher representative cricket commitments (AW Green Shield training, CNSW Academy Training, CNSW State Challenges, School Representative games etc)
 - ii. Attendance at compulsory school events (camps, weekend sport etc);
 - iii. Cancellations of games due to weather or pitch conditions outside the player's control, combined with **MYC** fixture clashes with club cricket; and
 - iv. Player illness or injury.
- e. Applications for concessions from eligibility Under Clause 5 (a) (iv) must be made in writing to the **SEJCA Representative Coordinator** via email and prior to the commencement of the **Academy Sessions** or **Open Trials**.